Page 3 last paragraph continuing onto page 4

In further accord with the invention, when overlapped sheets are clamped within the apparatus, the sheets are slit, to thereby create a precise butt line. The slitting creates two trim pieces. Removal of one trim piece, to expose the butt line of the sheets is facilitated by the way in which the top clamps the sheet onto the base. The top has two resilient strips, one on each side of the butt line, which press on the sheets to hold them in place. One of the strips has a low coefficient of friction with the sheet. Thus, one of the sheet trim pieces, the one which overlies the mating sheet, can be pulled from the clamp without release of the clamp.

Page 7, last full paragraph

Patent Application Serial No. 09/187,376, filed November 6, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,331,222, entitled "Splicer for Joining Thin Sheets" describes various aspects of the present invention which are treated here in somewhat less detail. Accordingly, the description of the prior application is hereby incorporated by reference. The use of a splicer in connection with a conveyor device for fanfold sheet is described in related patent application Serial No. 09/187,077, entitled "Fanfold Sheet Feeder Having Stack Postioner," now U.S. Patent No. 6,142,288, having certain common inventorship and assignee herewith; and, the description thereof is hereby incorporated by reference.

Page 19 first full paragraph

In operation, sheet is first captured within the splicer, before taping, by laying it onto the base and manually closing the top. There are two different modes in which the sheet is positioned or aligned accurately within the splicer, to get the desired precision of joining. As a reference point, the ends, or header and footer, of the sheets might simply be butted together carefully by an operator using visual observation. The usual aim is to both get minimal gap or accurate sheet-edge perforated hole spacing (as the case may be) and to get accurate spacing and orientation in the x-y plane, so there is no bend in the spliced sheet and so that the parting line to parting line spacing for fanfold sheet is maintained. Sometimes, a perforated tape is used, and the perforation of the laid-down tape must be consistent with the foregoing aims.

In the Abstract

A splicer quickly and accurately joins together with tape the ends of plain sheets or perforated sheets, such as the ends of fanfold sheet commonly used for printing. The sheets are clamped between mating pairs of resilient strips by a top which hinges down onto a base. The base has a combination of frictional clamps and retractable pins, for aligning the ends of sheet before they are clamped in place by the top, according to whether the sheets are perforated or not. A head is then moved rearwardly along the top, to first slit overlapping sheets and create a precise butt line, when that is required. An anti-friction surface on one of the resilient clamping strips attached to the top enables selective removal a one trim piece, to expose the butt line for taping, without release of the clamping action on the sheets. The head is then moved forward to precisely apply tape from a dispenser, and to automatically cut the tape and the end of the run. A cam, cam follower, and several interacting mechanical subassemblies carry out the required complex motions.